

**CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER RABBI ITA PASKIND
COMMISSIONER HOWARD DIXON
COMMISSIONER STEVE FERGUSON**

**FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDEES: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Steve Ferguson, Commissioner Rabbi Ita Paskind, Commissioner Howard Dixon.

STAFF: Chief Edward McCabe, Assistant Chief of Administration Mark Conte, Assistant Chief of Operations Timothy Reardon, Fire Marshal Troy Donohue, Sharon Torres, Chief of Human Resource Officer, Deputy Chief of Training Roy Gagne.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the regular meeting of the Norwalk Fire Commission to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

****COMMISSIONER FERGUSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There were no corrections, deletions, or omissions.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

V. REPORTS

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief McCabe reported that four months into the fiscal year the salary account has utilized 28.21% of its budget, placing it 5.12% under budget, and the overtime account has utilized 30.6%, placing it 2.73% under budget. Overall expenses are 2.16% over budget due to large upfront payments for software subscriptions and EMT compensation that are paid at the beginning of the fiscal year rather than monthly. Mr. McCabe stated this is not a concern at this time and will be monitored. He further reported no personnel are currently out on injury-on-duty status and no lost time was recorded for October.

Commissioner Ferguson inquired about potential reimbursement from the Rowayton volunteer fire district for services provided. Chief McCabe and Mayor Harry Rilling explained that Rowayton is a separate taxing district, that does not contribute to the city fire tax, but the Norwalk Fire Department provides full EMS response and full structure-fire response to that district under mutual aid. Mayor Harry Rilling stated the matter will be reviewed with the incoming administration to determine whether the 6th Taxing District should begin contributing to the cost of fire protection it now receives.

B. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte reported that the Station 1 apparatus floor replacement project has been completed successfully, and permits are being closed out. The Station 4 building renovation remains in the design phase with an architect, and a construction management firm has been selected through RFP; contracts are moving through land use and should be finalized early next year with groundbreaking anticipated in summer 2026. The citywide overhead door replacement project is nearly complete with only one special-order door remaining. The SCBA upgrade project has all equipment on hand and is awaiting final filling-station upgrades before being placed into service, expected within the next month.

C. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Fire Chief of Operations Reardon reported a slight increase in call volume for October, averaging 24 calls per day. The department has taken delivery of Tactical Rescue 2, a new support vehicle, and a new command vehicle is expected any day. Planning is underway for Tactical Rescue 3, a high-water vehicle to be stationed at Station 5. Seven new recruits have completed the academy and in-house orientation. Marine operations with Marine Unit 229 are proceeding well. The technical rescue team will assist with Santa and Grinch rappelling at 50 Washington Street for the holiday event in early December. Joint active-threat training with Norwalk Police and EMS is ongoing and progressing well. Notable incidents included structure fires at 100 San Vincenzo Place (contained quickly), 21 Fairfield Avenue (victim rescued but later succumbed), mutual aid to New Canaan, and a significant basement-to-full-involvement basement fire in Rowayton the previous night to which Norwalk sent a full assignment.

D. FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

Fire Marshal Donohue reported 306 inspections in October encompassing 837 units, \$2,545 in total revenue, 11 investigations (six fire-related and five code-hazard-related), and 14 public education events. He noted the new inspection software is working well and the three newly promoted deputy fire marshals are attending state training. The office supported several large community events with inspections and public education displays. Commissioner Ferguson asked about smoke-detector giveaways; Mr. Donohue stated those donations were received in November and will appear in next month’s report. Ms. Paskind thanked the Fire Marshal’s office for its visible presence at community events.

E. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief McCabe reported that Emergency Management Director Michelle DeLuca is attending a conference and there is no report this month.

F. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief of Training Gagne reported the department has completed active-threat and TECC/Stop-the-Bleed refresher training with police and EMS, wrapped up tanker task-force training, and made extensive use of the Renzulli site for ventilation, forcible entry, and confined-space training before its demolition. Ongoing joint active-threat training with police and EMS concludes this Friday at 79 Glover Avenue and commissioners are welcome to observe. Upcoming training includes roof-rope rescue operations, a Fire and Life Safety Educator class in December (open to surrounding towns), hazardous materials training in spring, and EMS refresher in January/February 2026.

G. LOCAL 830 REPORTS

There were no items.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

I. PERSONNEL

There were no items.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chief McCabe reminded the Commission of the swearing-in and promotion ceremony for new officers and probationary firefighters scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. at Fire Headquarters and invited all to attend.

****MS. PASKIND MOVED TO ADJOURN.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary